THE MINISTER OF STATS OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH):

(a) No. Sir.

(b) It ii difficuilt to compare capital cost and selling prlte of electricity per unit of power projects with different fuels as they depend upon the location, technology, capital structure, gestation period, type of fuel lamong the other factors.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in. vievr of (a) above.

Steps to check falling profits of SAIL

*270. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to -state:

(a) the strategy flnjaliised by SAIL for cost cutting and reduced consumption of coal etc. to check the falling profits; and

(b) the other incentive schemes devised in consultation with the trade unions to ensure better performance of the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) The stra-telgy adoptedl by SAIL for cost cutting mainly includes stricter control and closer monitoring of finanxdai; expenditure and materials consumption; greater utilisation o' available manpower and other i*n-house facilities; emphasis on preventive maintenance with stricter adherence to standard operating practices and reduction in adminiB-trative over-heads etc.

As a part of controlling consum-ption of materials, SAIL has taken measoiresi to reduce the specific consumption of Coking Coal which includes ensuring supply of the light quality and quantity of ilndi-genous coal by associating independent third party analysts and escorting of coal rakes; adopting coial saving practices like charging smaller coke fractions in the Blast Furnaces, higher usage of Sinter in the last Furnace burden, modernisa- tion of Blast Furnaces etc.

Besides, SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis to itmpnove its per-formance, which include modernisia-tion and technological upgradation of its plants, improving techno-eco-nomic factors i.e. reduction in coke rate, energy consumption, metallic input, improvement in yield, captive power generation, extensive customer/ (Contact, market oriented pxo-i duct-icnix, Improvement in quality, long term relationship with customers, leadership in service and customer satisfaction, strict control land monitoring of operating costs, higher productivity and greater autonomy to field ofiicers, etc.

The incentive schemes which have been primary production based are being reoriented, in consultation with the Trade Unions, to maks them focus more on current priority areas of cost reduction and quality improvement.

Sick and closed industrial units in the conntry

*271. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

da) the number of sick and closed industrial imits in the country as per the latest estimates;

(b) the aggregate book value as well as the current miarket value of capital assets locked up in these units; and